

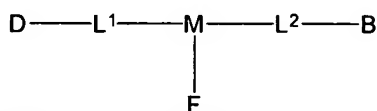
## Amendments to the Abstract

Please add the following abstract on a separate sheet:

### **Abstract**

#### Site-Specific Labelling of Proteins Using Cyanine Dye Reporters

Disclosed are compounds of formula:



in which D is a dye selected from a cyanine dye or a derivative thereof; B is an affinity tag; F comprises a target bonding group selected from a carboxylic acid thioester group and a 1,2-aminothiol group; M is a group adapted for attaching to F; and  $\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  each independently comprise a group containing from 1 to 40 linked atoms selected from carbon atoms which may optionally include one or more groups selected from  $-\text{NR}'-$ ,  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-$  and phenylenyl groups, where  $\text{R}'$  is selected from hydrogen and  $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$  alkyl. The invention also relates to methods that afford direct attachment of the cyanine dye reporter group to either the N-terminus or C-terminus of a synthetic or recombinant peptide or protein, and their derivatives, in a site-specific manner, coupled with purification of the resultant labelled molecule.